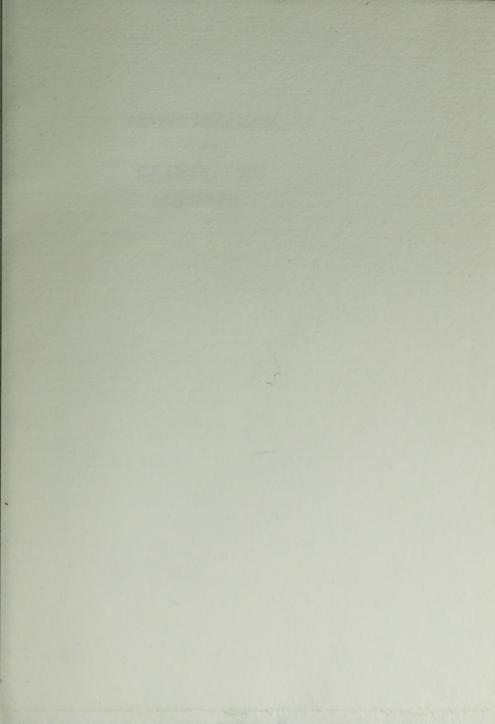




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SEVEN VERSIONS of the GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

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of the

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

PRIVATELY PRINTED

BY

SMITH & PORTER PRESS

BOSTON

1925

SEFEN FERSIONS

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GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

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THE recent diligent but unsuccessful search for the letter sent by President Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby of Boston, has caused many people to wonder whether or not the original copy of the Gettysburg address is still in existence.

Fortunately this address, being of a public nature, received greater attention than the above mentioned letter, and the historical value of the manuscript was immediately recognized.

An article written by John G. Nicolay and published in "The Century Magazine" for February, 1894, begins as follows:

"There are three sources of authority for the Lincoln's Gettysburg address, or, to speak more concisely, three

successive versions of it—all identical in thought, but differing slightly in expression. The last of these is the regular outgrowth of the two which precede it, and is the perfected product of the President's rhetorical and literary mastery. The three versions are:

- "I. The original autograph MS. draft, written by Mr. Lincoln partly at Washington and partly at Gettysburg.
- "2. The version made by the shorthand reporter on the stand at Gettysburg when the President delivered it, which was telegraphed and was printed in the leading newspapers of the country on the following morning.
- "3. The revised copy made by the President a few days after his return

to Washington, upon a careful comparison of his original draft and the printed newspaper version with his own recollections of the exact form in which he delivered it."

Later investigations have shown Nicolay's statement to be only partly correct, and at the present date (1924) at least five autographed copies are in existence.

The report of the Massachusetts Commissioners at Gettysburg gives a copy of the address that is different from any of the manuscripts.

Versions of the address, supposed to be stenographic, were published the next day in newspapers of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other cities, each version differing from all the others. For purposes of comparison, it is necessary to show only the copy distributed by the Associated Press. We thus have seven versions in all printed in this book.

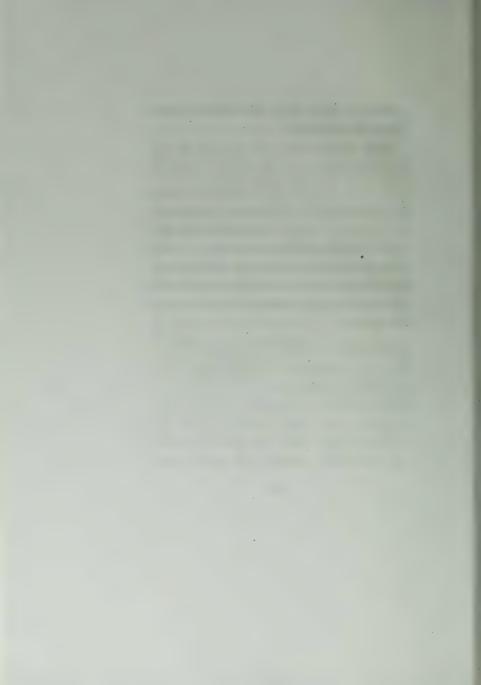
Lincoln's training developed a mind always ready for a stump speech, but after his election as President, he realized the absolute necessity, through his great responsibility, of having at hand manuscripts from which reports of his speeches could be made.

His feeling on arrival at Gettysburg was that sufficient preparations had not been made for so important an address, and he left the platform believing that his words had not fitted the occasion.

In the belief that these different versions have not before appeared together in book form, this little volume has been prepared.

The seven versions referred to are here printed, each with a short explanatory note, so that their authority may be shown and differences compared. It is evident that Lincoln himself did not literally follow either of the first two manuscripts, and it can be assumed that any one of the five succeeding copies is as near correct as any of the others.

HERBERT G. PORTER, 20 Arlington Street, Malden, Mass.



No. 1

The original draft, presented to the Library of Congress by the children of John Hay, is written on two sheets of paper. The first sheet is in ink on Executive Mansion stationery; the second sheet, which was probably written at Gettysburg, is in lead pencil on plain paper.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that "all men are created equal."

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it, as a final resting place for those who died here, that the nation might live. This we may, in all propriety do.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have hallowed it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; while it can never forget what they did

here. It is rather for us, the living, we here be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people by the people for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

No. 2

The second draft, also presented to the Library of Congress by the children of John Hay, is written in pencil on plain paper, and was probably done at the home of David Wills in Gettysburg, where Lincoln stayed over night. It is also probably the copy which he held in his hand while making the address, although he did not appear to refer to it.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met here on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of it as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we

say here, but can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have, thus far, so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us-that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotionthat we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

The Associated Press report of the address telegraphed to newspapers throughout the country. The reporter, Joseph L. Gilbert, admitted that it was not a stenographic reproduction, but was compiled in part from his notes, and in part from the manuscript.

The words "under God" in the last sentence appear here, and in all subsequent copies, but are not in either of the two original

manuscripts.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new Nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. [Applause]

Now we are engaged in a great

civil war, testing whether that Nation or any Nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting-place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. [Applause] The world will

little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. [Applause] It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. [Applause] It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain [applause]; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom; and that governments of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. [Long-continued applause]

No. 4

The report of the Massachusetts Commissioners to Governor John A. Andrew.

"The undersigned, appointed by the Governor, Commissioners to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at Gettysburg, in the State of Pennsylvania, on occasion of the dedication of the National Cemetery, on the nineteenth day of November, 1863, have the honor to report that they attended to the duty assigned them, and were present at the celebration. . . .

"The exercises took place in the presence of the President of the United States, the Governors of the State of Pennsylvania and several other States, three members of the President's Cabinet, five foreign ministers, and a large assembly of the people. A printed copy of the order of exercises is appended to this Report, marked (A). The oration was delivered by Hon. Edward Everett,

a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, and was heard with close attention; and the brief speech of President Lincoln, which followed, likewise made a profound impression. The former is appended in the printed copy, marked (B); the latter, which has not generally been printed rightly, having been marred from errors in telegraphing, is appended, marked (C), in the correct form, as the words actually spoken by the President, with great deliberation, were taken down by one of the undersigned.*

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY EDWARDS, GEO. WM. BOND, *CHARLES HALE, Commissioners."

FOUR score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation,

conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation—or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated—can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting-place of those who have given their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our power to add or to detract. The world will very little note nor long remember what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated, here, to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

No. 5

The manuscript copy made by President Lincoln for the Sanitary Commission Fair, New York, and sent February 4, 1864; now owned by Senator Henry W. Keyes of New Hampshire.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicat-

ed here to the unfinished work which they who fought here, have, thus far, so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us-that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vainthat this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom- and that, government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

No. 6

The manuscript copy made by President Lincoln for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fair, Baltimore, and sent March 11, 1864. This was written in ink on one side of three letter pages. The original is now owned by Prof. William J. A. Bliss of Baltimore.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is

for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

No. 7

A manuscript copy also made for the Baltimore Fair, but not used for the reason that it was written on both sides of a sheet of paper. At the request of George Bancroft, the Historian, it was rewritten (No. 6) and this copy retained by him. It is now owned by a member of the Bancroft family.

FOUR score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget

what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



This is Number , of which three hundred copies were printed for Arthur W. Rohn.

ARTHUR ROHN

PRESIDENT

SMITH & PORTER PRESS, INC. 530 ATLANTIC AVE., BOSTON





